

Benefits

OPI Cooperative Purchase Program

- Money spent in this program stays in Montana and supports Montana industry.
- Districts can save between 25-40 percent in food costs by ordering through the cooperative.
- Every district gets the same price, regardless of location or amount of items ordered.
- The program allows districts the flexibility to purchase as much or as little as needed. There are no requirements for minimum size orders.
- The program can be used as a district's primary purchasing plan, or in conjunction with other purchasing plans. There are no "mutually exclusive" agreements.
- Items ordered are delivered directly to any district in Montana with no added surcharges.
- Every district is offered personalized service directly from the OPI Cooperative Purchase Coordinator.
- All items offered are procured in compliance with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations for the School Nutrition Programs.
- The OPI Cooperative Purchase Program is customized for Montana districts. A committee meets regularly to make improvements to the program.

Comments from Districts using the OPI Cooperative Purchase Program

"... in Montana, we are such individualists. You meet the needs of a great variety of programs, and I know you put a tremendous amount of effort into making sure you are offering what we want."

"Everyone did a good job and the deliveries came on time."

"We're tickled we can order smaller amounts, as our enrollment isn't what it used to be."

"Everything went very smoothly. Thank you!"

"We very rarely have any problems ... Kennie is very helpful if we need her."

"[It is] a great savings for our school."

Results from a 2004 Cooperative Purchase Survey

Total survey size: 171

Total number of respondents: 139

96 percent found the savings they received from the bid worthwhile.

95 percent said the quality of the goods received were what they expected.

OPI Cooperative Purchase Program Description

The OPI Cooperative Purchase Program was implemented in 1980 to help Montana districts purchase high-quality nutritious foods at reasonable prices.

By combining purchase orders, all participating districts receive items at the same price regardless of size or location.

A competitive bid is conducted twice a year in accordance with USDA and Montana regulation and laws. The items (food, supplies and customized products) included through the program are determined by Montana districts.

The Advisory Bid and Commodity Committee (ABC) regularly reviews and revises the items available through the OPI Cooperative Purchase Program. The committee consists of state agency staff and school foodservice personnel representing districts of various sizes and locations in Montana.

Nutrition information for OPI Cooperative Purchase Program food items is available to districts to help with menu planning.

Office of Public Instruction personnel are available to offer purchasing assistance to districts.

More Benefits!

- Ordering is available on the internet at <http://data.opi.mt.gov/CooperativePurchasing/>
- Orders are delivered as frequently as once a month (depending on how the district would like to receive orders).
- The OPI Cooperative Purchase Program significantly increases the purchasing power of Montana districts.
- Because of the large amounts ordered through the OPI Cooperative Purchase Program, items can be customized and/or produced especially for Montana districts.
- Other school programs like concessions are eligible to participate in the OPI Cooperative Purchase Program.
- Items offered through the OPI Cooperative Purchase Program are analyzed for palatability, appearance and quality.

The OPI Cooperative Purchase Program was created especially for Montana districts.



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The OPI Cooperative Purchase Program

Office of Public Instruction
School Nutrition Programs

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